

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General expresses deep concern over fighting in Angola and appeals for end to acts that would worsen already "precarious situation"; United Nations arranged for cease-fire to take effect today.
- + Secretary-General's Spokesman says appointment of new Special Representative for Somalia is to reaffirm determination of United Nations to help people of that country overcome its tragic difficulties.
- + United Nations goodwill mission, lead by Raymond Sommereyns, Director in Department of Political Affairs, left New York yesterday for Moscow, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
- + Secretary-General calls for increased contributions to United Nations development programmes at joint United Nations/FAO pledging conference.
- + Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of International Conference on former Yugoslavia, visit Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Tirana, Podgorica and Zagreb for meetings with leaders of that region.
- + Albania urges United Nations to take immediate action to avert bloodshed in that region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deeply deplored the escalation of violence in Angola as evidenced by heavy fighting in its capital during the last 24 hours. In a statement over the weekend, the Secretary-General urged all the parties to stop hostilities and desist from any acts that would worsen the already precarious situation.

He strongly appealed personally to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas M. Savimbi, the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), to withdraw immediately their forces and to return them to the barracks. The Secretary-General called for the immediate resumption of the "constructive dialogue" which has been promoted by his

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Special Representative, Margaret Anstee, in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. He also appealed for the safety and security of all, including United Nations personnel and the expatriate community in Angola.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's Spokesman said yesterday that the United Nations had arranged for a cease-fire agreement between President dos Santos and UNITA leader Mr. Savimbi. The cease-fire, scheduled to go into effect at midnight last night (local time), was to cover the entire territory of the country. Ms. Anstee had been instructed to work out the modalities of the cease-fire arrangements with the two parties, the statement said.

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The appointment of Ismat Kittani, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, was to reaffirm the United Nations' determination to help the people of Somalia in overcoming the tragic difficulties their country faced, the Spokesman for the Secretary-General said in a statement today. He described it as the occasion for renewed cooperation and partnership between Somalia and the international community, and said its object was to save lives, defeat the spectres of famine and civil strife and to pave the way to political reconciliation.

The United Nations could only succeed in that task with the consent and support of the Somali people, he said. The Organization's purposes and method under Mr. Kittani's leadership would remain unchanged from that set forth by the Security Council, and the Secretary-General had no doubt that his Special Representative would have the full cooperation of his Somali partners in that endeavour.

Mr. Kittani, whose appointment was announced on 30 October, is replacing Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun, who tendered his resignation earlier last week. Mr. Kittani, who has served for many years at the United Nations, both as the Permanent Representative for Iraq and in various capacities as a member of the United Nations staff, is expected to leave for Somalia within the next few days.

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The Secretary-General has dispatched a goodwill mission to Tajikistan and Central Asia, lead by Raymond Sommereyns, Director in the Department of Political Affairs, according to a letter dated 29 October. The mission will visit Moscow, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The Secretary-General's letter was addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The Secretary-General had earlier dispatched a fact-finding mission which visited Uzbekistan and Tajikistan from 13 to 23 September.
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While contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP) relief assistance had risen dramatically, commitments to WFP development projects were the lowest ever, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said this morning in an opening statement to the joint United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and the United Nations/FAO Pledging Conference for the World Food Programme. The link between emergency and development assistance required that effective funding be provided for both types of assistance, he said.

Calling for adequate funding to programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Secretary-General noted that UNICEF needed sufficient resources to be efficient in helping countries formulate and implement national programmes of action for children.

As to the activities of UNFPA, the Secretary-General noted that there was an increasing awareness of the issue of population growth, and its relationship with the environment and sustainable development. A significant increase in the resources available to that Agency would make it possible to respond to the growing needs of many developing countries, he said.

Governments should ensure, at these Pledging Conferences, that the resources devoted to development cooperation through the United Nations system were at a level in proportion with the high expectations from the system by the international community, the Secretary-General said.

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Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, travelled to Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Tirana, Podgorica and Zagreb from 28 to 30 October to meet various leaders and discuss the draft Constitution for Bosnia-Herzegovina made public on the 28 October.

During the trip, they also sought assistance for the maintenance of stability in Kosovo and Macedonia and the protection of minority rights there, full implementation of the Vance Plan in the United Nations Protected Areas of Croatia, and cessation of hostilities and political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During their visit to Tirana, the Co-Chairmen held talks with Albanian President Sali Barisha and his cabinet, which focussed on the problems of the Albanian community in Kosovo and Macedonia and discussed what could be done to reduce tensions in the region. The President, for his part, confirmed his view that, on the question of the borders, the Helsinki principles apply; the Co-Chairmen stated that they were pressing for the restoration of full autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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While meeting with Croatian President Tudjman, the matter of illegal arms shipments to Bosnia-Herzegovina via the Croatian coast was discussed, and the President agreed to have ships suspected of carrying arms searched at their current anchorages.

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Warning that Serbian forces in Kosova were trying to provoke a massacre of Albanians, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Albania has written to the President of the Security Council urging the United Nations to take immediate action to avert bloodshed in that region.

The Chairman, Aleksandr Meksi, in a letter dated 29 October, said that in spite of all efforts by the Albanian political forces and the population, the army and the police had been intimidating people and physically abusing them, with the intention of provoking a confrontation and subsequent massacre. A peaceful demonstration the previous week against a ban on education in Albania had resulted in a hundred people being injured and many more thrown in jail.

To prevent "another Bosnian-type tragedy of wider proportions", he called on the Security Council to consider sending "preventive deployment forces" to the border between Serbia and Kosova, and establishing a permanent presence in conjunction with regional organizations, and a no-fly zone over Kosova. He also called for demobilizing of military personnel in Kosova, disbanding of paramilitary units, prevention of forced displacement of the population, and political negotiations for a peaceful and durable solution to the crisis.

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